

# A COMFORTABLE HOUSE.

HOW TO BUILD ONE THAT WILL BE PLEASANT AND ECONOMICAL.

Square House to be Preferred to Long Ones—The Living Room in Front as Well as the Parlor—To Cost from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

[Special Correspondence.]  
INDIANAPOLIS, July 1.—The ease and expense with which a house may be erected for largely dependent upon its floor plan and general conveniences. Those who plan factories and make arrangements with reference to the saving of labor. The idea in saving labor is to save money. The same saving may be effected in a house. But the appearance of a house is not to be neglected. We have twenty and yet add to the convenience of a house. The floor plan of a house affects the cost of living, as well as the convenience of housekeeping. It makes a difference as to the amount of fuel required and in the cost of service.



GROUND FLOOR.  
It is a more serious problem to build a house to cost from \$2,000 to \$4,000 than to build one which costs from \$2,000 to \$4,000. The man who builds the house of less cost must have all of the comforts of him who builds an expensive one. The difference in the two houses must be one of comfort, but of luxury.

In considering the requirements of those who would build a house of moderate cost we assume that the family contains the father, mother and children, both boys and girls. In a two story house the natural requirements make necessary a reception room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, parlor, vestibule and stair hall on the first floor. On the second floor there is the bedroom of the parents, and adjoining it a bedroom for the younger children if the family contains children who require the attention of the parents at night. If not this room may be given to the girls of the family, and one more detached to the boys. There should also be a guest room, a second room and the bath room. This gives four rooms on the first floor, and five, besides the bathroom, above the first floor. It is pleasant to have the parlor and sitting room in the front, while the dining room and kitchen may be in the rear of the house. The stair hall would occupy an intermediate position. This makes practically a square house. It has been a common practice during past years in building houses of moderate cost to have the stair hall along one side with its entrance in front and the parlor next to it. Back of the parlor was the sitting room, the hall opened into the dining room, and back of the dining room was the kitchen, and so on to the extreme rear through summer kitchen, pantry, etc. This makes a long house with only one room in front on the first floor and one chamber and an alcove with a direct view to the street.

When we say that the sitting room should be in the front part of the house it does not necessarily imply that the parlor should be situated. As shown in the annexed plan they may both be in front. The vestibule, which is large enough for a hat rack and for the occupants of the house to stand while putting on their overcoats and wraps, is in front of both parlor and reception room, but yet in a way so as not to disturb the view to the street from either of these rooms. We cannot have all of the rooms in front. The kitchen we do not want there. The dining room is convenient if placed immediately in the rear of the sitting room. The kitchen is convenient if immediately adjacent to the dining room. Thus we have two rooms in front and two in the rear. This is practically a square house. The old habit has been to place the stairway along one side of the parlor in the hall which served as a passageway from the front to the rooms immediately in the rear. This distribution of the hall is what



SECOND STORY.  
has thrown the sitting room back of the parlor. In the plan here given the change has been made so that the hall has relatively the same position that did the sitting room in the past, though it is by no means as large. It is essentially a stair hall, and is fundamentally a passage. As it is placed we may enter it from the parlor, sitting room, dining room or kitchen. Its position is central. There are two doors between this stair hall and the kitchen. The central position of the stairway has other advantages than those just stated. It makes long halls of the second floor entirely unnecessary. As we will see by looking at the floor plan, it gives two good bedrooms in front.

The dining room comes immediately in the rear of the sitting room. There may be sliding doors connecting these two rooms, or doors three feet and a half wide, hung on hinges, make a sufficiently large opening for the dining room connection. There may be sliding doors between the parlor and sitting room, and on down the plan. The kitchen has the advantage of a certain amount of isolation from the rest of the house for the reason that there are two doors between it and any other room. The pantries are arranged with reference to the most convenient use. In the kitchen pantry there are places for a refrigerator, food bin, bread board, and cupboard. The dining room pantry is a china closet with glass doors above and close doors below.

On the second floor there is a hall about fourteen feet long, from which we pass to two bedrooms in front, two in the rear, the bath room and the store closet. As a matter of course every room is independent. They may be connected one with the other as family necessities would suggest. The store closet is accessible from the hall, as such a closet should be. This makes it available from any of the rooms. The bath room is directly over the kitchen. The pipe duct, which is in the kitchen wall, affords passage for the pipes and also acts as a ventilator for the kitchen. Its use as a ventilator, in this way serves a double purpose. It not only takes the odor laden air from the kitchen, but it also keeps the pipes warm in cold weather. Where there is an arrangement of this kind the pipes will not freeze as long as there is heat in the kitchen. In fact the pipe duct will be the last place in the house to get cold enough to freeze.

To return to the bedrooms: In each there is a place for a bed, which is not always the case in bedrooms, a dressing case and a washstand. If there is room for these things, if the dressing case bears its proper relation to the sources of light, if it is so placed that the light from the window or from the gas shines in the face of the user, if the washstand is conveniently disposed and there is room at the side of it for a slop jar, then the architect has done his full duty, provided, however, that there is a large closet off from the bedroom. The room that is called the family room should be especially well cared for in the matter of closets.

A hundred dollars worth of plaster the entire attic of this house and provide a room in the front part, which could be used by the boys or by the servant. There is no compromise in this except in the necessity for climbing an extra pair of stairs. The mere mention of a bedroom in the attic is distasteful to a great many people. It arouses their memories of hot, dusty and uncomfortable places in which they have passed the night. All this depends on the attic. The roof in this house is pitched at an angle of 45 degrees. The house at the narrowest point is 25 feet wide. This would make the attic at the highest point 12 1/2 feet. We could stand down from the roof and have a 9 foot store at the same time a large room, one which would have none of the disadvantages of a half story room, and which would have all the advantages of a well ventilated, comfortable bedroom summer and winter. The plastering of the attic suggests neatness. Having it well lighted by dormer windows all disorder. In cities where the public supply of water contains a large amount of lime, or which for other reasons is said to be hard, the water tank, which is filled with clean water, should be placed in the attic.



ELEVATION.  
The ceiling should be something more than a hole in the ground. In the modern house it is well lighted, has a heavy cement floor, which is smooth and easily cleaned. It is not all open from room to room, but has one apartment for the laundry, another for the fuel and furnace, and still another for vegetable and general household stores. In the matter of fuel it may be said that there is no reason why the entire winter supply of coal and kindling should not be placed in the basement. It is certainly a great deal more to go outside of the house in winter time, out from a room, but the kitchen, that it is to go down cellar for the fuel.

As to the cost of this house I would say that it would be from \$2,500 to \$3,000. One of the newspapers which published one of my letters stated that a number of houses had been built in and adjacent to their city from the plans described, and that the cost had been from \$100 to \$500 in excess of my estimate, but stated that as that was quite the usual thing with architects' estimates, no blame should be attached. I will venture to say that of the houses which have been built from these sketches not one of them has been exactly like the plan given. It does not take many changes to affect the cost of a house from \$200 to \$500. Furthermore, the ideas of those who build begin to grow as soon as they commence to think about it, and their ideas of cost is usually formed before the house is fully developed, the accuracy of the estimate suffers. Again, the cost of a house is largely a question of business management. As a general thing architects' estimates are all right; it is the owners' ideas which grow. They usually exceed the estimate of the architect. In respect to this there is no basis for calculation or estimate. The development of such ideas is variable.

LEWIS F. GIBSON.

**Abie Bodied Chicago Liars.**  
Said Col. Paul Hynes yesterday: "The hottest day in the history of Chicago was July 4, 1857. At noon that day the thermometer registered 127 in the shade. The lake steamed and steam like a tea kettle and fish floated ashore already boiled and cream gray on them."

"June 28, 1842, was the hottest day I ever knew of," said Long John Westworth. "I was in a barn near the Wiley farm, near where Kinsey's restaurant stands now. It was so hot that we had to hang the thermometer in the well and keep fanning it to prevent it from burning."

"On Aug. 6, 1846," said Amos Tucker, "no child a biter. Along about sunset I went out to the barnyard to see how the stock was getting along. We had twelve fine pigs just ready for the market. Well, when I got to the barnyard all I could find of them legs was twelve buckets of lead hard."

"The hottest day I ever knew of was July 17, 1851," said Jonathan Young, Scammon. "I remember the exact date, because the morning of that day our boys all had hard boiled eggs."—Chicago News.

# MARY JANE'S TRAVELS.

WITH DICKEY UNDER HER ARM SHE GOES ALL ABOUT LONDON.

Their Itinerary Is Somewhat Out of the Usual Lines—They See More of the Modern Portion of the City Than the Ancient, and Mary Jane Tells About It.

[Special Correspondence.]  
LONDON, June 28.—"Dickie," said I this morning as we started out, "have you got any pennies?"  
"Nary a penny," said she, offhensively.  
"What do you want with 'em? Where's your letter of credit?"  
"Don't be so unsatisfied, please," said I; "I've got to feed a lot of people today, and I want the money in small doses."

"You want it in small amounts, as it were," said she, putting as much as I could into it.  
"I want it," said I, sharply, "and that's enough."  
"Oh," said she, sarcastically, "if that's enough, why do you ask for more?"  
We journeyed while longer, and then I compromised by taking all her pennies, and went out, Dickey remarking as she sat down on the top of the bus.

"They say the typical Englishman is only found in the higher circles, and perhaps he is, but the typical American is found all over England, wherever there is a British subject teaching his hat and waiting for something he hasn't earned."  
The free system, or rather free sentiment, in England, I think, does more to degrade the lower classes than any other one thing; this side of the remnant of feudalism in royalty. Men who, similarly situated in America, would knock a man down for offering them a tip, take it gladly here, and do it with a serenity that is painful to our independent eyes. We have the system in America, it is true, but there the recipient receives it with a certain air of right, which makes one feel that the laborer is worthy of his hire, while in England they fawn and cringe and bow and touch their hats till you want to take a club and break a head or two. I don't know how high up they go, but I know that at the palace the licensed slave in the office told me I could not get in until I got a ticket, and I could only get that by writing a letter to the master of the house. I started off back to my quarters to do that, when I saw a man, and told me it was against the rules, but he thought he could find me a ticket. I put up a shilling, and he went to the dock and picked me up in a few moments. The shilling cost more than an envelope and stamp, but it was more immediate in its effect. The policeman will also take anything "except a prisoning," and I don't want to read your letters."

"You don't have to," said I, and quit.  
MARY JANE.

A CALL ON O'DONOVAN.

A Correspondent's Reception by the Editor of the United Brotherhood.  
[Special Correspondence.]  
NEW YORK, July 4.—On Beekman street, up several dark stairways, and I was in the job room of the firm that prints O'Donovan Rossa's paper, The United Irishman. The foreman of the establishment was entertaining and glib, and at business with me. I asked for the ex-Fenian. "Oh," he said, with a wise shake of the head, "you fellows wouldn't have much to write about if it wasn't for Rossa."  
"Do many reporters come to see him?" I asked.  
"Yes, a good many; one or two nearly every day."  
"And does he talk to them?"  
"Not very much. I don't think Mr. Rossa wants as much notoriety as formerly."

As we talked Rossa came in, pulling off his coat as he walked through the room. He wore a huge broad brimmed, low soft hat, which suggested the cowboy, an idea his powerful form and six feet of stature encouraged. He scanned my card critically, chewing a toothpick, flung the card on a little desk next to a stack of papers, and asked me to be seated.  
"But he would not talk," I have done about enough fighting," he said, "some of the other fellows may do so now."  
I asked if he could not say something about the Fenian Brotherhood, when he explained that he had nothing to do with that organization, and I recalled that he had been deposed from his leadership. Would he not talk about the George movement?  
"Ah, that is Irish ground," he said.  
"Would he say anything about the organized opposition to English rule in Ireland?" I asked.  
"No, not about the Catholic following Father McGlynn would have in event he were excommunicated? Another shake. For his opinion of the jubilee demonstration in honor of the queen he referred me to his paper, and for information about himself, to his books."

**Habits of Rattle-snakes.**  
"Few people," said a gentleman who has had some experience with rattle-snakes, "understand the habits of rattle-snakes, and quite there is a good deal of unnecessary fear regarding them. In the first place a rattle-snake will not chase you, and in the second place it will not attack you unless you come upon it in such a way that it cannot escape without striking. If a rattle-snake is disturbed it usually shows its rattle and makes off, but if you come upon it suddenly and it has to fight it will curl itself up, raise its head and strike at you downward. The fang is turned up under the upper jaw, and as strikes this is turned out and cuts into the flesh. It is as sharp as a razor, and goes through a thin coat like a steel blade."  
What is the best antidote? Whisky. The man who is bitten by a rattle-snake should have whisky poured into his mouth until he is too drunk to stand, and he should be kept drunk for two or three days. The one poison counter-act is little hope for him. I have seen it stated that a bottle of turpentine turned upon the bite will draw the poison out in the shape of a greenish cloud that will float up into the air, and a man may see it and make a mistake of that. Have flesh will also draw out the poison, it is said, and I know that in some places, when a person is bitten by a rattle-snake, the first thing done is to kill a chicken, cut it in half, and while the flesh is still quivering put it warm upon the bite."—Savannah News.

**Society Notes.**  
The engagement of Miss Erminie Bots, daughter of the wealthy livery stable proprietor, to Lord Ernest Algonzo Skyles-Nyme of Coveport-Avon, is announced. This wedding will take place on September at the bride's palatial home at Botsden-on-Goose Island.

A gloom has been precipitated upon the community by the rumor that Miss Birnie McPhee's vaccination did not take.

Edmund J. Burke, a student confined to his bed owing to his having eaten a slice of fruit cake at a fashionable garden last Thursday evening.

The highest social circles have received with open arms Mr. and Mrs. Elmer K. Muzzlewhite, the wealthy and cultured New York couple, who have taken a temporary residence in Chicago for the purpose of getting a divorce.—Chicago News.

**The Sabbath Not Broken.**  
Eastern Stranger.—My, my! I didn't suppose you allowed baseball playing here on Sunday.  
"Omnia Mundus." The playing is being done by an out of town club and we don't feel responsible for them, you know.  
"But isn't the Omaha club they are playing against?"  
"Yes, but the Omaha club is composed of very conscientious young men who wouldn't think of breaking the Sabbath."  
"But there they are right in the field and this hallowed day of rest."  
"If you look at the score you will see that they are not playing; they are resting!"—Omaha World.

good pay, but they are not all reliable, though the average in England is higher than elsewhere. A very pretty one I know gets \$45 a year and found, but she doesn't do the cooking. I don't believe our American style of all around girl prevails in England. The girls usually call themselves "slaves," and they are very respectful, and their manners are good. Ten to twelve pounds a year and four is considered very good pay, and some I talked to about coming to America did not seem flattered by the inducements I held out. As a rule they know very little besides their business and their home gossip. One at my lodgings, not more than a mile from St. Paul's, saw a picture of the cathedral which I had bought, and she not only did not recognize it, but had never heard of it until I told her. She said she had only lived in London a few years and was not acquainted with the cathedral. In the same house they burned manufactured gas in the grates, and we use the natural variety in America, and not being posted I asked the house girl where it came from.

"Out of the meter, miss," said she, and that was all she did say.  
Buffalo Bill is the biggest man in England at the present writing, and the boys on the street chase him around just as he does in America. He is also the champion of the high and mighty, and if I am a judge of faces, B. B. is as square a man as the best of them. The queen, the prince, and all the family have been out to see the Wild West show, and they have publicly expressed their appreciation of it. This business of the queen and prince going to shows, opening exhibitions, etc., etc., has given the Radical papers a fine chance to make sarcastic remarks with reference to the royal family as excellent advertising mediums. They are quite right, too. I think, and after I had read, say after day, of the queen opening this show, the prince that, the princess the other, and another prince or princess something else, I came to the conclusion that the royal family should be called the national cork crew, and hung up in a public place easy of access and no charge for corkage.

Dickey reminds me at this point that it is time to give the people a rest and go out with her to buy a pair of gloves. Gloves are so cheap in London you want to buy a pair every day because they are cheap.  
"Have you written up any of the sights?" said she.  
"A good many," said I.  
"The tower, museums, palaces, bridges and all that?" said she.  
"Not a word," said I.  
"Why not?" said she, in surprise.  
"They are guide book sights," said I, "and I am not in the guide book line."  
"Oh!" said she, turning up already some what reticent nasal organ, "you want to be considered a great original, do you? Well, I don't think it is all as we go along, and I don't want to read your letters."

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# A STRANGER IN GOTHAM.

FIREWORKS GALORE SHOWN IN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.

A Workman's Sleep Interrupted by Some Practical Jokers—A Reminiscence of a Fourth of July a Score of Years and More Ago—Murphy's Monument.

[Special Correspondence.]  
NEW YORK, July 4.—The windows of the dealers in fireworks and similar Fourth of July novelties, with which big noses and in- cipient fires are made, have been arrayed in gorgeous splendor for weeks. Flags flutter across the streets at such places and the colors of the rainbow are brought out in sidewalk displays. Each dealer keeps notices in conspicuous places about his premises which warn purchasers and spectators alike that smoking is not allowed. The small boy has flattered about the retail shops with the air of a connoisseur inspecting every novelty that would add to the noise making he had in mind for that holiday, to all American kids most dear, the glorious Fourth.



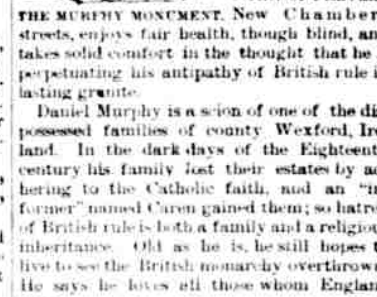
VENGEANCE OF THE BOYS.  
The small boy has also been getting in some lively advance work with firecracker and squib, despite the harsh words of Mayor Hewitt, which set forth that the firing of guns, fireworks, and squibs, etc., would not be permitted within city limits. I saw an example of it the other day. A tramp sat in the shade of a wholesale coffee dealer's awning, sound asleep on a pile of sacks. As I passed—a rat a fizz a fizz—a package of fireworks had been slipped under him, and with one yell of horror the sleeper landed in the middle of the street, rubbing the damaged parts of his anatomy ruefully, while the spectators roared. The ludicrousness of his situation seemed to strike the fellow and he slunk away.

A fellow walking with me at the time then related the story of the vengeance that was once wreaked on a big, overbearing bully by a crowd of small boys who were trying, but in vain, because of the bully's interference, to celebrate the day of independence in their own way.

"It was in '65," my friend said with great particularity, "I was at the age when all correctly built American boys delight in fire-crackers and pin wheels and their like and had gone down to Waite's grove with a dozen or twenty of the neighborhood boys to have some fun. Well, we had burned up all our crackers and squibs and had exploded all our torpedoes. To fill out the hours intervening before it would be dark enough to set off our roman candles to advantage we went in swimmin' in the creek that ran through the grove. Old man Waite's son, who was larger than any of us, came around with his pockets full of fireworks and proceeded to throw our clothes into the water by way of having some preliminary fun before shooting off his crackers and things. He had a fine new suit of clothes on himself and spoke with contempt of our poorer and older garments."

"The boys were all inclined to be mad, and it was proposed to stone him in payment for his meanness. But some one set that out that it would be better to wait till we were on shore and then get even, so we dressed up in our wet clothes and went ashore, professing to regard the fellow's trick as the pleasantest kind of pleasantry. He was greatly puffed up by the fact that we took it so well, and became very genial and patronizing. But his complacency was shortlived, for some one of the boys slipped up behind him and touched a match to the fuse of a pack of firecrackers that was sticking out of the big boy's pocket. In a moment there was a circus, and then the laugh was on the other side."

"But we were all sorry for our trick afterward, for the big fellow was so badly burned that he was laid up for a week."  
"His fine new suit was spoiled, too, but we didn't care for that."



Daniel Murphy, of the Fourth ward of New York city, has taken a novel method of perpetuating his name of the Emerald Isle and corrective dislike of England. Mr. Murphy has erected his monument in advance of his death, and a fine one it is. On the front of the third step leading to the base he has had these words deeply chiseled: "To outlast the British monarchy, this monument attracts much attention, as it stands in the new Calvary cemetery in a very conspicuous place. The column is forty feet high, and supports a handsome Greek cross, which is plainly seen from a great distance. The column is of gray granite, made by Andrew Clancy from a design furnished by Mr. Murphy himself, after he had inspected many cemeteries to find a good model. The pedestal is Gothic, three other styles being represented in the plinth, shaft and capital, and the total cost was \$30,000. Mr. Murphy expects, of course, to be laid in the plinth, beneath the monument before many years, as he has already passed the three score and ten limit, but at present he resides at the corner of Pearl and Chambers streets, enjoys fair health, though blind, and takes solid comfort in the thought that he is perpetuating his antipathy of British rule in acting granite."

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